Statewide eLearning Initiative

enhanced   extended   enriched   effective   efficient   engaging

$Ne^nLearning$

educational   equitable   entertaining   essential   exciting   evolving

electronic   enlightening   elastic   elegant   eloquent

exceptional   exhilarating   extraordinary   exquisite   esteemed

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Observations

Innovation in eLearning is occurring now throughout the state of Nebraska at all levels and adoption and integration of technology into instruction will continue to increase in the future.

Collaboration between K-12 and Higher Ed to develop effective eLearning models and instructional development training for instructors will be critical.

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HigherEd – in-process activities

Four major HEd initiatives emerged:

1) Negotiate aggregated Course Management SW licensing and purchasing agreements

2) Establish a plan for developing and deploying eLearning instructional design training for instructors

3) Develop a strategy for sharing and managing content

4) Develop long-term strategy for eLearning

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K-12 – in-process activities

Pilots:

- Tri-Valley Distance Ed consortium – John Stritt/UNK host/Blackboard (initiated)

- Lincoln Public Schools – Chuck Friesen/UNL host/Blackboard (initiated)

- Laurel/Concord – Eddie Elders/Wayne State host/WebCT (initiated)

- District 66 – Colette deFrey/Blackboard (initiated)

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Why eLearning??

- Access - any time, any place, any path, any pace

- Equity - extends learning opportunities and enhances the learning experience

- Affordability - facilitates the sharing of educational content and the leveraging of instructional resources

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Why eLearning??

- eLearning technologies are interactive; therefore it is easier to create environments in which students actively participate in the learning experience, receive feedback, continually refine their understanding, and build new knowledge.

- eLearning helps students visualize and comprehend difficult-to-understand concepts through methods such as simulations and opportunities to engage in real-world problem-solving.

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Why eLearning??

- Empowers students to become active producers of knowledge (discussion groups, charts, publishing)
- Fosters development of higher-order thinking skills (organize complex info, recognize trends & patterns, draw inferences, collaborate)
- Ensures student mastery (integrated assessment tools and learning systems track student progress)
- Provides access to resources unavailable in any other medium (audio, visual, dynamic, analytical)
- Learning institutions become the hub of a wider networked learning community

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The essence of this initiative is to connect the innovators and experts that already exist and leverage their experience and expertise to develop strategies to insure the effective and efficient deployment and utilization of eLearning tools and techniques and the integration of these technologies into the instructional process to deliver educational opportunities to students at all levels throughout Nebraska on an equitable and affordable basis.

(aka - advancing the academic agenda)

The challenge = how to make all this happen??

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A unique window of opportunity exists now, and for perhaps the next 12 months, to move this initiative forward. This opportunity exists due to many factors: the maturation of course and content management software, the explosive growth in the use of the internet, the need to provide educators additional instructional tools/options, the need to extend learning opportunities throughout the state, statewide K-12 education standards, and budget constraints.

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These factors have combined to provide a situation in which there is an unprecedented interest in cooperation and collaboration in education at all levels throughout the state of Nebraska.

Nebraska needs to identify an entity responsible for the promotion, adoption, and effective utilization of technology in the support of education in the state of Nebraska at all educational levels.

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Three major areas of initiative:

1) **Course management** - negotiate aggregate purchasing/licensing agreements and assist entities in the deployment and effective use of this technology

2) **Content management** – develop a strategy to put into place a Nebraska Educational Knowledge Repository to facilitate the sharing of educational resources

3) **Infrastructure** – develop and implement a plan to put in place the technical, organizational, and administrative resources required to support eLearning statewide

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We are proposing convening an eLearning Initiative Workshop to develop an action plan on how to proceed in organizing the eLearning Consortium.

We feel this workshop should be convened as soon as possible.

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Future activities

- **Define eLearning goals and objectives**
- **Identify Initiative "sponsor" (candidates = NITC, P-16, NE Dept of Ed, NCITE, ???)**
- **Organize NE eLearning Consortium - address the issues of structure, membership, governance, accountability, authority, etc**

UN/NDE/
NITC

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Acknowledgements - eLearning Initiative participants:

- **NITC, NDE, P-16, NCITE, NDLA**
- **K-12 – ESUs, NWSDAC, LPS, Distance Ed Consortiums, MOEC, District 66**
- **Higher Ed – all NE publics and privates - i.e. UN system, State Colleges, Community Colleges, and all private IHEd in the state**
- **UNL, UNO, UNK, UNMC, CSC staff**

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NITC

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We welcome your input, involvement, and support!!!

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